

'Bead-dazzling' is the best way to describe new trend

This year, some of the prettiest new dresses, blouses and sweaters have beaded designs and shoulders, necklines and waistlines. Most often the beaded designs are small but dazzling as they reflect light.

"Bead-dazzling" is one way to describe the new fashions. Expensive is another word for them.

The expense is due to the handwork necessary in beaded fashions. Beadwork can only be done by hand, and today anything that is hand-done is costly.

Beading, however, is simple. If you choose to do it yourself, you can have your beaded fashions at a fraction of the usual cost. In addition, even a beginner can achieve results that are as professional-looking as anything you'll find in most shops.

In beadwork, you don't even have to create your own design. You can simply buy an iron-on transfer pattern at a sewing shop, iron it onto your dress, blouse or sweater, and then sew beads along the line.

Here are some directions for beading:

MATERIALS: Skinny needles, manicuring scissors, embroidery hoop and tiny beads. Look in craft, sewing or special bead shops for seed beads or bugle beads.

Either draw a design with tailor's chalk or select an iron-on transfer pattern with very little detail. Beads are heavy, and too many beads will weigh down your dresses, blouses or sweaters. Transfer patterns, like beads, are available in craft, sewing and specialty shops. They are usually used for embroidery.

Choose any garment for beading — from a T-shirt to an evening dress. Stitch designs at the shoulders, near a neckline, along a waistband or anywhere else you desire. Lines of beading often look pretty near seams at shoulder yokes or hiplines.

BASIC RULES: 1. Slide an embroidery hoop over the area to be beaded. Keep fabric taut, but not stretched. 2. Cover all outlines in the design with straight, curving or twisted lines of beads. 3. To make double lines, first complete one line. Then stitch the second line of beads, keeping it close to the first line — but not touching. If lines touch, the fabric distorts when the hoop is removed.

STRAIGHT LINES: 1. Bring needle through the fabric from behind, along one of the lines in your design. 2. Slide six beads onto the needle. 3. Stitch through fabric, following the lines in the design (a). 4. Bring needle back up behind the last three beads (b). Then, stitch through the three beads again. 5. Thread six additional beads onto the needle (c). 6. Stitch through fabric, still following the design. 7. Repeat steps four, five and six until you've covered as much of the design as desired.

CURVING LINES: For most curves, follow direc-

tions for straight lines. If curves are especially rounded, however, stitch only four beads at a time. With each stitch, come back through the last two beads only.

TWISTING LINES: 1. Repeat steps one, two and three of "Straight Lines." 2. Bring needle back up beside the last three beads (d). 3. Thread six beads onto the needle. 4. Stitch over the last six beads and through the fabric, following the lines in your design (e). 5. Repeat steps two, three and four until you've covered as much of your design as desired.

EYEBALL THIS

Extraordinary necklaces and bracelets are sometimes seen in certain Italian coastal regions. They're made of squids' eyes strung together. — CNS

CHANGE OF SHOES

It's not good to wear the same shoes day after day. Constant wear causes

moisture buildup inside, encouraging bacteria to breed. — CNS

PURPLE WAS RED

The phrase, "wearing the royal purple," came from the color of togas worn by rich or noble Romans. But it wasn't the purple we know today. It was a cardinal red from shellfish dyes on the coast of Asia Minor.



Staff photo by Kelly James

Beverly Johnston wears an R&K Original with a soft purple color and a white leaf print.

Larger sizes also take on the red, white and blue spring look

by JAN COOLEY
for The Outlook

The look for spring in full-figured women's fashions is softly tailored jackets, polka dots and pastels.

Shirley Reynolds of Being Beautiful says spring styles "emphasize the feminine look with more frills."

One in three adult women is size 16 or over, Reynolds says, but "size doesn't really make any difference. Everybody dresses to look thin." Being Beautiful's spring line features narrow pleats, belted dresses and soft, ruffled necklines for a slimming effect.

Red, white and navy blue are — "salute 'em colors," according to Reynolds — but not the nautical style so popular in other sizes. "We'll use the colors but not the look," she says. "That's too limited as far as I'm concerned."

Reynolds specializes in fashion education and coordination rather than trends, she explains. "We try to put the style of clothes on the full-figured woman that flatters her and makes her look nice." No single dress or pant length dominates this season, she adds,

"just whatever feels comfortable."

Styles are a mix of casual and dressy, with three piece outfits of coordinated pants, skirt and jacket providing the basics for both looks. Iceberg linen is popular in straight cut blazers and culottes. Dresses are in cotton blends.

Casual wear for spring includes lots of jeans, tank tops and cotton shirts as well as "vacation-type styles," according to Reynolds. Swimsuits are changing from skirted styles to sheaths, with the leg cut high to make legs appear longer and thinner. Bright, shiny floral prints in soft, silky fabrics are replacing heavier knits and more muted colors. Matching street length skirts complement some of the swimwear.

Another popular spring casual is the patio dress, a floor length cotton gown that is gathered at the yoke for a softly flowing line.

For the mother of the bride, formal wear is in pretty spring pastels.

Reynolds' personal fashion philosophy transcends the seasons. "Look the best you can every day," she says. "Fix your hair, fix your face and wear nice clothes."



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